

NEWS.

MR. J. C. WILLIS has been appointed director of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Ceylon.

AT THE MEETING of the Linnean Society of London on May 7th, Prof. D. H. Campbell was elected a foreign member.

PROFESSOR D. T. MACDOUGAL returned from Europe August 15, after a short period of study in Professor Vöchting's laboratory at Tübingen.

DR. J. C. ARTHUR left Bonn about August 15th, intending to spend a few days in England, and to reach his work at Purdue University, September 1st.

MR. W. L. BRAY, who has recently had charge of the botanical work at Lake Forest in the absence of Dr. Harper, has gone to Germany to spend a year in study.

THE OBSERVER (Portland, Conn.) has been greatly enlarged and improved. It is now one of the best periodicals for amateur naturalists which comes to our table.

PROFESSOR R. A. HARPER, of Lake Forest University, returned from Europe a short time since. He was the recipient of the doctorate from the University of Bonn during the last semester.

MR. W. J. V. OSTERHOUT has accepted the position of instructor in botany in the University of California. He recently returned from a year's study in Professor Strasburger's laboratory at Bonn.

DURING A RECENT visit of the king of Siam to the Botanic Garden at Buitenzorg the dignity of Commander of the Order of the White Elephant was conferred upon Dr. M. Treub, director of the gardens.

DURING THE SEMESTER just closed the workers in Professor Strasburger's research laboratory at the Botanic Institute, Bonn, included five Americans, two Germans, one Swede, one Pole, one Russian and one Englishman.

MR. D. G. FAIRCHILD, after more than two years' study in European laboratories, has gone to Buitenzorg, Java, to carry on further researches. He has severed his connection with the United States Department of Agriculture.

DR. H. SCHENCK of Bonn, who was recently made professor extraordinary, has accepted the position of professor ordinary at the Polytechnicum at Darmstadt and director of the botanic garden, to succeed Professor Dippel, who retires from active work.

COULTER'S *Flora of Western Texas*, published among the contributions from the United States National Herbarium, and issued in three parts, has been republished and bound into a single volume. The original edition of the first part had been entirely exhausted.

DR. E. KOEHNE, of Friedenau bei Berlin, the well-known dendrologist and editor of the *Botanisches Jahresbericht*, has begun the issue of a "herbarium dendrologicum adumbrationibus illustratum," by the distribution of the first century. The generally poor representation of woody plants in herbaria ought to make this set of exsiccatae particularly acceptable.

PROFESSOR DR. COMES, who has been for some years engaged in a study of tobacco, offers seeds of a very large number of garden varieties, forms and their hybrids in exchange. He especially requests those who have any uncertain species or varieties of *Nicotiana* in their herbarium to send him specimens for examination, which he will promptly return. He recognizes, in a tentative classification, six varieties of *Nicotiana Tabacum* and seven of *N. rustica*.

PROFESSOR C. R. BARNES and Mr. F. D. Heald have recently sent to press a second and very greatly enlarged edition of Barnes' *Keys to the Mosses of North America*, which is to be published about Oct. 1st, as a *Bulletin* in the Science Series of the University of Wisconsin. It will make a work of from 175-200 pages, including not only a key to the published species, so far as possible, but also collected descriptions of species not described by Lesquereux and James in the Manual.

ONE OF THE FEATURES of the Innsbruck botanical garden is the planting together of plants illustrating certain ecological relations. Professor Dr. Heinricher has arranged thirteen groups among which may be noted compass-plants, climbers, humus plants, parasites, plants with weapons, etc. A list of the best representatives of each group, together with some culture notes, is given in the *Botanisches Centralblatt* 66: 273. 1896. Other gardens with such grouping are Berlin, Munich, and Zürich.

MR. GEORGE W. VANDERBILT has imported from Europe what is considered to be the most valuable library on forestry in the world, for his Biltmore estate. Mr. Vanderbilt has started forest culture on a large scale at Biltmore, under the management of Mr. Gifford Pinchot, and has built a number of cottages on his estate for the special use of students of forestry.

As these will have access to the library mentioned, it will be, for all practical purposes, a free library.—*Book Reviews*, August.

AT THE LAST meeting of the Linnean Society, just before the summer vacation, a paper was presented by Professor D. T. MacDougal on the relation of the growth of foliage leaves to the chlorophyll function, and also one by Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace on the value of specific characters. The occasion was especially notable as being the fortieth annual meeting since the joint presentation before the society of the subject of the origin of species by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russell Wallace. The gathering in consequence took on something of the character of an ovation to Mr. Wallace.

THE DEATH of William Hamilton Gibson in the latter part of July removes an acute observer and an artist of great excellence as an illustrator. His first work was done for the *American Agriculturist*, while his later work in *Harper's Magazine* and in popular books is familiar to all. His recent studies were chiefly upon the relations of flowers and insects, upon which he had prepared a series of lectures, illustrated by most ingenious mechanical charts, showing the insects and flower parts in action. He had already done much to popularize (in its best sense) the study of plants in the field, a greatly needed work cut short by his untimely death in middle life.

THE BOTANIC GARDEN at Oxford is said to be the oldest in Great Britain. It was presented to the University in 1632 by Henry L. Danvers, earl of Danby, who spent a large sum in filling in the ground to raise it above overflow from the river that runs along one side. He also built the high stone wall about it, as it now stands, at an expense of 5000 pounds sterling. Part of the elaborate gateway designed by Inigo Jones, including the statues of Charles I and Charles II, was added later. It is a curious feature that the ground on which Lord Danvers spent such a large amount of money was not bought, although it must have been a cheap piece of land, but was leased from Magdalen College at an annual rental of thirty pounds sterling. The lease is still in force without alteration, the last renewal in December 1880, being for sixty years. There is no danger, as reported in American journals, that the lease will ever be closed or changed, unless it is the desire of the University.